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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method of  
imparting pathogen resistance to plants. This involves  
5 applying a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide  
or protein in a non-infectious form to a plant seed under  
conditions where the polypeptide or protein contacts  
cells of the plant seed. The present invention is also  
directed to a pathogen resistance imparting plant seed.  
10 Alternatively, transgenic plant seeds containing a DNA  
molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor  
polypeptide or protein can be planted in soil and a plant  
can be propagated from the planted seed under conditions  
effective to impart pathogen resistance to the plant.

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